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OLC 67-0116

28 March 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Preliminary Briefing of Mr. George Norris, Counsel,
House Armed Services Committee, Concerning the
Balance of Strategic Weapons, USA versus USSR,
Tuesday, 21 March 1967

1. Mr. George Norris, Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, visited the Agency for an informal briefing at 4:00 p.m. in the DD/S Conference Room. The briefing was arranged as a first step in providing information desired by the House Armed Services Committee which was requested originally in a letter of 7 March 1967 signed by Representative L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman, and Representative William H. Bates, Ranking Minority Member, House Armed Services Committee. The time of meeting resulted from the need for general information in the subject area prior to a Committee meeting with the Secretary of Defense, Robert S. McNamara, scheduled for the next morning Wednesday, 22 March. Agency personnel present were:

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2. The briefing was informal and followed a general conversational tone which was lead by Mr. Norris' desire for definition as to the accuracy of figures and information set forth in the working draft paper of the National Strategy Committee of the American Security Council titled, "The Changing Strategic Military Balance." The general discussion centered on the following:

- a. Accuracy of figures in the American Security Council estimate of megatons available in strategic weapons systems.
- b. Tonnage of nuclear weapons.
- c. Numbers and utility of strategic attack aircraft
- d. An orbital missile system
- e. Ballistic missile systems

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3. The discussion was in most general terms and did not exceed top secret classification. No codeword material was discussed. Mr. Norris took no specific or detailed notes, and no material was given to him. The meeting was friendly and cordial, and was explanatory from Mr. Norris' viewpoint as he had been away from the nuclear field for a number of years.

4. This session with Mr. Norris does not of itself provide any guideline for further briefing or response to the letter request of 7 March. Discussion with Mr. Norris, after the meeting concluded, indicated that he hoped, at least from his point of view, to have a better feel of the problem after Mr. McNamara's appearance before the Committee. We assured him that Mr. McNamara also uses our national intelligence.

5. Mr. Norris requested that he be provided with the names and office designation of the individuals participating in today's briefing.

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[Redacted Signature Box]
/Assistant Legislative Counsel/

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